



Gas Leak Abatement Rulemaking R. 15-01-008 Policy and Technical Issues Workshop



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Safety & Enforcement Division
Risk Assessment Section
April 6, 2015**





Safety and Emergency Information

- In the event of an emergency, please calmly proceed out the exits.
- We have four exits: Two in the rear and one on either side of the speakers.
- In the event that we do need to evacuate the building:
 - **(For the Rear Exits)** - Head out through the courtyard, and down the front steps. Continue west on McAllister Street. Turn north onto Franklin Street. Turn west onto Turk Street and proceed to Gough Street.
 - **(For the Side Exits)** - Go out of the exits and you will be on Golden Gate Avenue. Proceed west to Franklin Street. Turn north onto Franklin Street. Turn west onto Turk Street and proceed to Gough Street.
- Our assembly point is Jefferson Square Park on Turk and Gough Streets.





Objectives of Workshop

- Review Staff Report on Best Practices for Methane Leak Abatement
- Provide Update on Air Resources Board proceedings
- Open discussion of policy aspects
- Better understanding of technologies/tools for improved leak surveys and mitigations
- Opportunity to refine May Reporting templates





Agenda

- 10:00 am Intro, Logistics and Background
- 10:15 am Review Staff Report on Best Practices – Questions
- 10:30 am Status of California Air Resources Board (ARB)
rulemaking and methane reduction initiatives
- 10:50 am Break
- 11:00 am Policy Panel
- **12 Noon (approx.) Lunch**
- 1:15 pm Technical Panel
- 2:15 pm Open discussion of issues to be addressed
- 2:45 pm Break
- 3:00 pm Caucus on consensus items
- 3:45 pm Reconvene and next steps.





SB 1371 (Leno, 2014)

- Requires CPUC to “minimize leaks as a hazard to be mitigated”...and to reduce emissions of natural gas “to the maximum extent possible” to advance goals of greenhouse gas emissions
- Directs CPUC to “establish and require the use of best practices for leak surveys, patrols, leak survey technology, leak prevention and leak detection.”
- Intrastate transmission and distribution lines
- Requires gas corporations to file reports about natural gas leaks, and leak management practices and “estimates of gas lost due to leaks.”
- Confer with California Air Resources Board and open proceeding to adopt rules. R. 15-01-008 launched January 15, 2015.





Staff Report

- Issued for comment, March 18, 2015;
- Emphasis on methane emissions – described as a potent greenhouse gas with impacts greater than 20 times carbon dioxide
- Identified major sources of leaks;
- Reviews seminal report from ICF International (March 2014) and U.S. EPA Natural Gas STAR program;
- Proposes that for the purposes of SB 1371 GHG reductions, all leaks should be considered hazardous to people, property or the environment;
- Recommends that “the best practice would be to repair all leaks immediately as they are found,” but recognized that might not be practical or cost-effective.
- Other best practices compiled on Appendix spreadsheet!





Staff Report

- Possible Options for Commission Consideration:
 - Revise definition of gas leak “any release of methane from the gas system into the atmosphere, whether intentional or unintentional, whether hazardous or non-hazardous”
 - Not in agreement with U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) definition, which is a Safety standard, while SB 1371 is concerned with reducing emissions.
 - Revise Leak Grading and Repair Timeline Guidelines to eliminate Grade 3 Gas Leaks.
 - Revise General Order 112 about leak surveys and other practices.
 - Training programs, capital improvement programs, and potential incentives for gas corporations.





Policy Issues for Panel 1

- The intent of SB 1371
- New methane emissions limits
- New leak grading system





Technical Issues for Panel 2

- Technologies to find leaks
- Technologies to quantify the amount of methane leaked from individual leaks
- Technologies to quantify the system leak rates





Next Steps

April 1, 2015 - Comments on Staff Best practices report

April 22, 2015 – Reply Comments

June 8, 2015 – Pre-Hearing Conference





Thank You!

For further information related to R.15-01-008
please contact :

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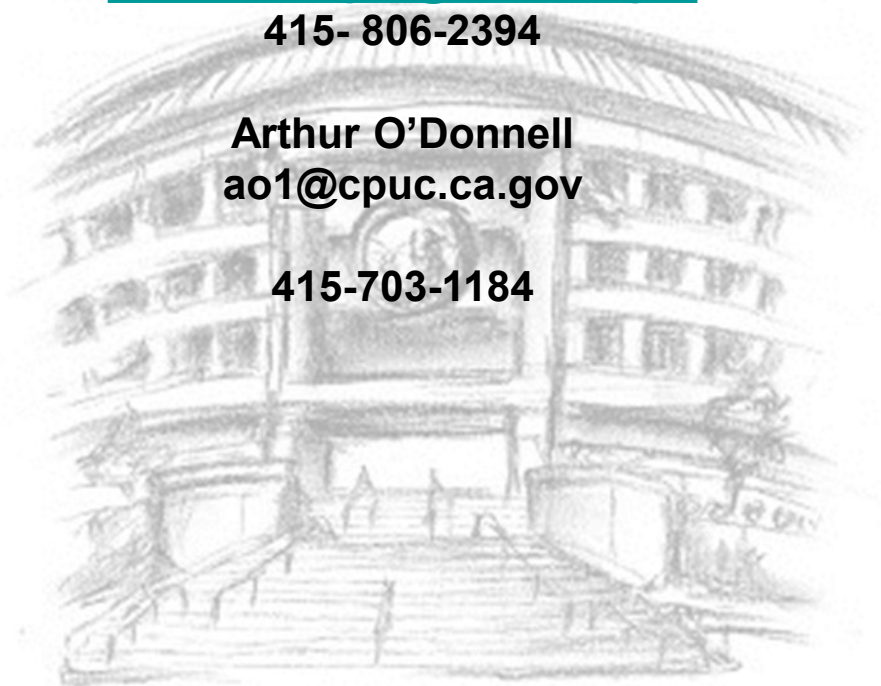
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